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U N I V E R S I T Y

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GIBSON SCORES

CALEB ROWAN
sports editor

A college career full of adversity, personal development, newfound inspiration and a few shattered records has prepared Harding alumnus Jacob Gibson for his upcoming step into professional basketball. The former Bison shooting guard signed a contract earlier this year with the Ringwood Hawks, a Big V League team near Melbourne, Australia.

Gibson said playing professionally was not something he thought possible growing up and that even during his time at Harding, he could not foresee a future basketball career.

"I never thought I'd play any pro sport growing up," Gibson said. "For the longest time I was lacking confidence but (head) coach (Jeff) Morgan helped me grow a lot as a player and as a person."

An Arkansas native, Gibson was recruited by Morgan and contributed immediately during his freshman season in 2012. Gibson quickly became the Bisons' go-to three-point shooter and averaged 14 points per game in his breakout sophomore year.

However, things changed midway through Gibson's junior year when he was dismissed from the university for disciplinary reasons. Gibson said he returned to his hometown of Jonesboro, Arkansas, disappointed but realized that his time off was crucial in his development both on and off the court.

"Leaving was very tough on me, but it really helped me focus in on my life," Gibson said. "As a person it just opened my eyes to all sorts of things. Overall I'm thankful I was able to come back and be on the team — that was the biggest thing. I loved going out there with some of my closest friends."

Back on Harding's campus in 2016, Gibson said he brought a new mindset to basketball and life, citing his coach and his teammates as role models.

"Watching how Coach Morgan and

how guys like Will (Francis) live their lives, it just helped me really pursue God and want to have a strong relationship with him," Gibson said. "As a player, it was just the confidence instilled whenever you're around people like that and (when) you work together, you sweat together and you trust each other. That helped me whenever I got the confidence to play freely and be myself — that was huge."

During 2016, Gibson broke Harding's all-time three-point record, averaged 17.3 points per game and was named Great American Conference player of the year, raising the eyebrows of several pro coaches overseas.

"The opportunity rose up for me right at the end of the senior season when I had a good second half," Gibson said. "I guess my name started getting thrown around to some coaches and they were noticing some stuff online about me. I had a connection to (Ringwood) through a guy who played in Northeast Arkansas, and he helped me out and mentioned my name to the coach."

After further communication with Ringwood's staff, Gibson was able to sign on for the Australian squad's 2017 season with a few important people nearby.

"I was very excited when I got the contract offer," Gibson said. "It looked like a really good deal for now and the best fit for me. (Getting to) sign with my friends and teammates there to surround me that day was awesome."

As he transitions into his professional career, Gibson said he hopes to take a piece of his Harding experience with him to Melbourne, as well as his ability to make shots.

"I know they're going to ask me to score points, and I want to fill that role for the team on the court," Gibson said. "I'm really appreciative to Coach Morgan and thankful for my time at Harding. I'm just going to try and take the attitude I learned to have (at Harding) and do whatever it takes to win games."



BRITTANY GARRINGER | The Bison

Homecoming musical looks to be Harding hit Musical features more dance production numbers than any in HU history

JOSHUA JOHNSON
editor-in-chief

"After about 30 years of directing the Homecoming musical, I am excited about one of the most fun shows I have ever gotten to work on," Robin Miller, chair of the department of theatre, said. "('Crazy For You') combines all of the wonderful things

that make musical theater so enjoyable. You have big production numbers, beautiful music, a lot of comedy, and there are even emotional heartstrings that get pulled. It's what makes musical theater work."

According to Miller, "Crazy For You" is a splashy show that will be a delight to the Homecoming audience.

"Notice I keep using the word 'fun,'"

Miller said. "This is, simply put, a fun show."

The plot revolves around a young, lovesick New Yorker named Bobby, who is sent to the Wild West by his banking shrew of a mother to foreclose on a small theater in Nevada. There, Bobby (played by senior Thomas Williams) meets a young woman named Polly (played by senior Renee Maynard) — the only woman in a town full of cowboys and miners. In an attempt to save the theater from foreclosure and win the heart of the only lady in town, Bobby decides to phone in some friends and put on a show that will bring the entire community to life. Along the way, "Crazy For You" is a story of mistaken identity, love at first sight and enough dancing to make "Footloose" look like a period drama.

"The Harding audience will enjoy this show," Miller said. "I could make jokes about falling in love at first sight, and being in love, then being in love with the wrong person, and then finally getting it right — like I said, the Harding audience will enjoy this show."

According to Miller, "Crazy For You" has more dance production numbers than any show in the history of Harding Homecoming musicals.

Sophomore Olivia Ballinger is one of three choreographers directing the musical numbers in the show. Ballinger said her official title is "jazz choreographer." Junior

Sarah Dixon and alumna Kelsey Sumrall are choreographing the tap dancing and principal dance numbers.

"This show is everything you think of when you think 'musical,'" Ballinger said. "It has the love story, it has the action, and it definitely has the dancing."

Ballinger said a large percentage of the cast this year consists of freshmen and said they have performed admirably alongside the more veteran performers.

"We are definitely a freshman-based show, and they are adapting very well to what we are doing and what were are throwing at them, even though I'm sure it's very overwhelming for them," Ballinger said.

Freshman Robbi Selvidge said it was definitely intimidating to take on a challenge like the Homecoming musical.

"I've been a technician all my life and have never previously danced," Selvidge said. "But I feel like this production has brought me closer to my fellow freshmen. We're all given the chance to grow together in the department."

Miller said they are promoting the Homecoming musical as, "the most fun show you've never heard of."

"This show has been on the bucket list for a long time, and it's been on the bucket list for a reason," Miller said. "It's truly a dynamite show."



RYANN HEIM | The Bison

Sophomore Olivia Ballinger leads a rehearsal for "Crazy For You" on Oct. 4. Ballinger is one of three choreographers directing the tap and jazz numbers in the show, which will take place on Oct. 28-29 during Homecoming weekend.

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Make-A-Wish Student-Athlete Advisory Committee raise money in hopes of sponsoring a child in the Searcy community

MICHALIE BROWN
student writer

Every year, the NCAA conference asks the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) to raise \$1,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Last year, senior baseball player Jack Thomas challenged the organization to do better. It costs \$8,000 to sponsor a child and make their wish come true.

"When I first told people how much it was going to cost, they kind of laughed at me, but I knew we could do it if we tried," Thomas said.

SAAC planned a week last semester where local restaurants donated a percentage of their profits to the cause, but this year, senior women's basketball players Andi Haney and Mackenzie Jones decided to make the fundraising into a competition.

The men and women's basketball teams each selected three representatives, and the team that raised the most money won the opportunity to pie the other team in the face.

"Midnight Madness was a great place to kick it off," senior guard Will Francis said. "It was good to publicize Make-A-Wish, and hopefully people will be more aware of what we're trying to do."

Haney, and juniors Sydney Layrock and Falan Miller were selected to represent the women's basketball team, and sophomore Gojko Sinak Djokovic, Francis and sophomore Zach Fryxell were selected to represent the men's basketball team.

In the week leading up to Midnight Madness, sports teams from across campus worked together to raise money for the cause. After a final collection at Midnight Madness, the women's



KAZU FUJISAWA | The Petit Jean

Seniors Will Francis and Gojko Sinak Djokovic get a pie in the face at Midnight Madness on Sept. 29 after the women's basketball team won a competition to raise money for Make-A-Wish. The event raised over \$500, making the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee total fundraising amount over \$3,000.

basketball team representatives won the competition and pied the men in the face.

"We want people in our community to view Harding athletes as people who have a lot more to them than just playing the game," Francis said.

The event itself ended up raising over \$500, and other weekend fundraising brought the SAAC's total fundraising amount to over \$3,000.

"We're so thankful for everybody that helped out. We're really excited about it but we will be doing more events as

this semester and next semester comes on so that maybe next year we can support a kid," Haney said.

SAAC hopes to give back to the community by sponsoring a child from White County or another nearby county.

"Make-A-Wish is a special organization, but we didn't want to send the money to some big pot and not know where it went," Tomas said. "We wanted to do it here, in this community."

To learn more or get involved, contact Haney or Thomas, or follow SAAC on Twitter at @Harding_SAAC.

Conflict continues in Syrian Civil War

Arkansas-based immigration organization plans to bring refugees into state this fall after U.S. welcomed 10,000th Syrian refugee

ELI ANDREWS
student writer

Canopy NWA, an immigration organization based in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is planning to start bringing refugees around the world to Northwest Arkansas this fall.

The organization is part of the Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service that works with the U.S. State Department to figure out not only who gets to enter the country, but also where and how they will be relocated. Canopy NWA executive director Emily Linn said it is a slow process to get the refugees incorporated into society.

"We have a case manager who gets them on their feet over the course of three months," Linn said in an interview on Oct. 3 with NWA Homepage. "So that includes getting them signed up for any benefits like welfare they might be eligible for to kind

of help them starting out."

This comes on the heels of the conflict in Syria in the past five years. According to an article published online by ABC News Oct. 5, President Bashar al-Assad of Syria announced his forces will cease bombing the city of Aleppo, one of the biggest hotspots for rebel forces in the Syrian Civil War. This is after 16 days of continuous bombing has killed 316 people in the eastern part of the city alone. White House press secretary Josh Earnest said this is a technique used by Assad to forcefully evacuate civilians from areas he sees as disloyal him.

"Ordinarily you would be heartbroken to learn that this was the result of some sort of accident," Earnest said in an interview with ABC. "But it's clear that the Syrian regime... is engaged in a strategy of bombing those civilians intentionally to try to get them to bend to the will of the Assad regime."

In the shadow of the upcoming presidential election, the Obama administration is pushing to create the Adopt-A-Refugee Program, which will allow U.S. citizens to provide funding for lodging, clothes and other necessities for a refugee of their choice from anywhere in the world. Matthew La Corte, a research associate for the Niskanen Center, says the program will allow U.S. citizens to provide much-needed humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees.

"It puts Americans in the driver's seat," La Corte told the Daily Caller in an interview published Oct. 5. "It allows them to say 'I was thinking of buying a new car but I'll instead take that \$10,000 and put it toward bringing a Syrian refugee over.'"

Political science professor and director of Harding Public Safety Craig Russell says the Syrian refugee situation is bigger than most U.S. citizens can understand, partly

due to the number of civilians fleeing the country.

"While accurate statistics are difficult in a war zone as large as Syria, the most recent estimates I have seen is between 300,000 to 470,000 dead over the past five years, and around 11 million Syrians have had to flee their homes," Russell said. "By comparison, the population of Arkansas is around 3 million. There are so many sides that it is difficult to keep up with all the players, and it is even more difficult trying to figure out what sides might be worthy of support."

The Obama Administration announced last month that President Obama plans to allow over 100,000 refugees from around the world to immigrate to the U.S. next year. With over 10,000 refugees in the U.S. already and no end to the war in sight, this number is only expected to grow.

SHOP FAIR TRADE



- Java City
- Starbucks



- Pepsi Beverage Company
- Frito-Lay



- Target Corporation
- Patagonia

Fair Trade Month raises awareness

JAISA HOGUE
news editor

This October marks the 13th annual Fair Trade Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness of fair trade and promoting the purchase of socially and commercially sustainable products.

Fair trade is a social movement that seeks to ensure companies or producers in developing countries pay a fair wage to workers and enforce fair labor practices, such as safe working conditions and the absence of child labor.

Junior elementary education major Jenna Cruz said she is passionate about fair trade because it seeks to help people living in poverty in other countries.

"They're doing the same amount of work, so they should get the same amount of money," Cruz said. "They probably work even harder because a lot of those workers live in Third World countries where they don't have everything we have here or as cheap as we have it."

Professor of behavioral sciences and director of the social work program Terry Smith said he urges students to support fair trade and hopes students leave his international social work course with more awareness.

"In some sense, by not being aware of fair trade, we make consumer choices that lead to unjust toil for people, but also poverty," Smith said. "We contribute to (workers in developing countries) being poor. We really just need to understand the impact of our choices."

Smith claims that one of the major contributions to poverty in developing countries is the fact that fair trade practices are not implemented and that poverty is foundational to many other social ills.

"When you have poverty, you're going to have human trafficking," Smith said. "When you have poverty, you're going to have child soldiers. When you have poverty, you're going to have all kinds of atrocities. We all have a part in contributing to that."

Products that are sold using fair trade receive a certification label that assures buyers fair practices were enforced in the production of that product. Organizations like Ten Thousand

Villages and Land of a Thousand Hills sell fair trade certified products from around the world. Online Fair Trade USA allows consumers to research products and even purchase fair trade certified products at places such as Amazon.com.

"Because of the Harding Read, particularly as we looked at slavery, this is an especially important concept for folks to be thinking about," Smith said. "The fingerprints of slavery are all over a lot of the consumer choices that we make, and fair trade is a way to try to get rid of that."

Smith said he encourages his students to buy fair trade products as much as possible and ask other stores to do more to carry fair trade items.

"(Buying fair trade) can be kind of expensive, sure, but that's because the people are getting paid fairly," Cruz said. "That's the reason your Forever 21 skirt was only five bucks, because someone wasn't being paid enough to make it."

Much like Smith, Cruz said she encourages people to be aware of what they are buying and what goes into making it. She even suggests that people buy products secondhand from places like Goodwill or Plato's Closet to keep from directly supporting companies that do not practice fair trade.

"It's good to know where your products come from," Cruz said. "That product didn't just come out of thin air, your phone didn't just happen, someone made that. It's important to be aware of what you're taking in or consuming and know someone took the time to make it."

To learn more about fair trade, visit fairtradeusa.org.

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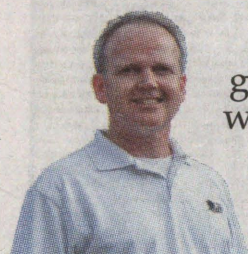
Tuesday-Saturday:
11 am - 8 pm



Letter to the Editor: Regarding Title IX

bruce mclarty

guest
writer



A few weeks ago, an opinion essay in The Bison was critical of my submission of a letter to the Department of Education (DOE) this past summer which claimed Harding University's exemption from certain aspects of Title IX. I thought that this same space in The Bison might be the best place to explain why Harding claims this exemption and to clarify a few matters mentioned in the opinion letter about which I believe there is some misunderstanding.

Title IX was passed in 1972 and prohibits colleges from discriminating against anyone based on their sex. From its beginning, Title IX allowed an exemption for religious colleges who find certain Title IX requirements to be at odds with their religious convictions. When such a conflict occurs, the schools are instructed to submit a letter to the government stating what that conflict is. This doesn't mean that schools can opt out of Title IX, but it allows religious schools to

claim an exemption from the particular aspects of the law that they find to be in conflict with their religious convictions. Harding University has an official Title IX compliance officer and is committed to complying with the requirements of Title IX, including filing the exemptions that are provided under Title IX law. Harding first claimed this exemption in 1976 and refined it in 1985 and 2016.

The reason for Harding's recent letter is that the DOE issued a "Dear Colleague" letter in May 2016 indicating that Title IX now prohibits "discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity." This language would prohibit Harding from enforcing our code of conduct, based on our convictions, that prohibits sex outside of marriage and that affirms marriage as a lifetime covenant between a man and a woman. Our standards on this have not changed, but recent changes in the government's interpretation of Title IX have made it necessary for us to write an updated letter to the DOE clarifying our claim to the religious exemption that Title IX allows.

Another area I want to clarify involves the perception that Harding is using our Title IX exemption as a way of "refusing housing, financial aid, counseling or enrollment to individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender identity." This is neither our intent nor our practice. People who experience same-sex attraction

are welcome at Harding. Our code of conduct does not attempt to control, investigate or enforce restrictions on self-perceptions of any kind. Our code of conduct is about behavior. This code of conduct, which is applied to all students, faculty and staff, is rooted in Biblical principles. Based on our understanding of Scripture (Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11), we believe that homosexual behavior is sinful. I say that with a keen awareness that the Bible calls me to "examine myself" any time I call anyone else's behavior sinful (Galatians 6:1).

Finally, I want to state emphatically that there is absolutely no place at a Christian university for the bullying or mistreatment of anyone for any reason. Every single Harding student and employee is a valued part of this community and is granted the protection of this community. Any time that anyone for any reason feels threatened or harassed, we want to know about it. We take this very seriously and will immediately correct the situation. While we cannot claim to be perfect, Harding is committed to being a place where kingdom values shape how we live and how we treat one another. A community of mission must always be a community of love.

BRUCE MCLARTY, president of Harding University, is a guest writer for the Bison.

it's
complicated



'Dishonor on your cow'

In June 1998, when my small, blonde, curly-haired self was just three years old, one of the best Disney animated features, Mulan, was released into theaters. My dad tells me that I watched the film at least once a week when he bought it for me on VHS, and I honestly couldn't tell you if he's exaggerating or not. I watched my same exact Mulan VHS with a good friend this fall break and I was reminded of just how much it means to me.

When Mulan arrives to get ready for her matchmaker's appointment, she's bombarded by her mother about how she must have a good hairdo and a tiny waist, as well as be pale, calm and obedient. In order to bring honor to her family and the emperor of China, she must be married and have children. These are standards that all girls hear from the time they are children.

Mulan is so distressed that she blows it with the matchmaker and becomes afraid that her family won't find her honorable. I often feel the same way, upset that I'm not meeting the expectations of my parents. When her father is called up to fight the Huns in the imperial army, Mulan steals his armor, disguises herself as a man, sneaks out at night and goes in his place. She's determined to show her family that she can bring them honor in more than one way.

Captain Shang, the male lead, admonishes his recruits and tells them that the men must be swift as a coursing river, have the force of a great typhoon, strength of a raging fire and be mysterious as the dark side of the moon. These are standards that all boys hear from the time they are children. Mulan is the only recruit that completes the seemingly impossible task of climbing the wooden pole with the weights around her wrists, persevering and defying the norm.

When the company marches off to war, they imagine a woman they think is worth fighting for: pale and pretty, can cook well, will adore his experience in the army and think he's perfect in every way. Mulan tries to convince them otherwise and suggests a girl who's got a brain who always speaks her mind, but she's quickly dismissed.

When Mulan is figured out to be a woman after single-handedly killing most of the Hun army by starting an avalanche, Shang gives her mercy since she saved his life. Through her intuition, cunning and skills, she ends up killing Shan Yu once and for all and saves all of China. The emperor honors her for this and bows before her, a gesture typically given only to the emperor himself.

Watching this movie this past weekend gave me a great reminder as to why I keep a small plastic Mulan figurine on my desk in the Student Publications office. Mulan proves that being strong and able isn't a trait exclusive to men. In fact, the gender roles and standards that society forces on us are arbitrary and inaccurate. A woman's worth isn't found in her ability to be married off and have kids, nor is a man's worth found in his ability to catch fish with his bare hands or balance a pail of water on his head while rocks are being thrown at him. She inspires me to be myself even if people aren't interested in me or they're just intimidated. She motivates me to go above and beyond expectations.

I'll leave you with some wise words from the emperor: "The flower that blooms in adversity is the rarest and most beautiful of all."

HANNAH J. MOORE is the opinions editor for the Bison.

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Awareness versus activism

miranda mcclung

guest
writer



A week ago, I noticed an influx of students claiming, in the form of Facebook status updates, to have found squirrels in their vehicles. Despite the very large squirrel population at this university, I found it difficult to believe that this many people were surprised by small visitors in their cars. It came as no surprise when I received a Facebook message the next day, accusing me of liking one of these statuses, declaring it to be part of the Breast Cancer Awareness Game and instructing me to update my status accordingly.

It is one of my greatest pet peeves when people throw around words without careful consideration of what they are saying. I then began to reflect on the word "awareness" and what it actually means to be aware of an issue. Does it mean to know or acknowledge that it exists? To be sensitive towards and care about it? To make sure to mention it in conversation?

I have heard my age group described as "the activist generation," being more involved in social issues than those before us. I do not dismiss this as untrue; increased access to information has made us more knowledgeable of the problems the world faces. Social media trends also show a growing pattern in our society.

The problem is not the trends themselves. In 2014, the Ice Bucket Challenge raised millions of dollars for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association. The problem is that the other millions of people who dumped ice water on their heads without contributing a penny. "Awareness" replaced other, more productive ways of helping those in need.

Instead of raising money for research and treatments for these diseases, we now consider it the peak of social advocacy to make people aware of things. It takes minimal effort to tack "breast cancer awareness" onto the 2016 version of a chain email. Because of the cause, however, we can give ourselves a pat on the back while simultaneously pranking our friends, all without lifting a finger from our phone or computer screens. For some reason, this does not seem like the most productive way to serve others.

I believe that as Christians and as human beings, we can do better than this. I am not trying to abolish Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I recognize

the importance of celebrating with survivors, mourning with families of victims and promoting early detection. I will never meet my paternal grandmother because this vicious disease claimed her life before I was born. It is with the utmost sensitivity and compassion towards those who have been impacted by breast cancer that I write this article.

I am guilty of this, too. I changed my profile picture to a French flag after the Paris attacks along with the rest, knowing full well I was making no difference. It is so easy to play these games and pretend they are something real. This is why I cannot stress enough the importance of being "doers," not merely "sayers." The only thing that makes raising awareness worthwhile are the actions people take in response. So please, make a funny Facebook post in October. Grow out your mustache in November. Douse yourself with cold water in August. But do not lose sight of the reason these things are important; contribute your money, time and talents to these very real causes which affect the well-being of so many.

MIRANDA MCCLUNG is a guest writer for the Bison.

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OPINIONS

4A | Friday, October 14, 2016

joshua johnson



same song,
second verse

Always on duty

You never know what kids will remember.

As someone who has only been on the receiving end of the parenting job, I imagine one of the scariest marvels of this occupation is never being “off duty.” Every parent knows how to find a teachable moment — after all, it is human instinct to grab a child’s hand before they touch a hot stove. It is our nature to help kids understand why shots are necessary, even though they hurt. It is common sense to explain why the sandbox is safe and the street is not.

These are foundational moments, and the lessons are eternal and priceless. The memories themselves, however, are often lost, while obscure and seemingly insignificant moments can be remembered for a lifetime.

Nobody can predict what will be remembered. This definitely doesn’t just apply to parents, either. One of my most vivid memories involves someone who played merely a supporting role in my life.

His name was Ben. He was probably 16 or 17 years old when I was nine. We ran in the same circle once or twice a week when a group of us would meet in an empty parking lot to play flag football. Ben was what I had heard people describe as a “radical Christian.” At the time, I knew little about what this meant. To me, he was just an older, popular guy who knew everything about Star Wars, and that was more than enough to win my adoration. I wanted to be just like Ben — the Jedi Master to my padawan learner.

One day, Ben showed up to the parking lot with an odd piece of jewelry around his neck. He was a big guy, over six feet tall and easily 220 pounds, and on this hot July day, he showed up with a heavy steel chain around his neck. It was the kind of chain you might buy to keep a dangerous German Shepherd constrained. On Ben’s chain, in the typical fashion of a necklace pendant, was a large padlock.

The whole apparatus had to weigh several pounds. In hindsight, there was no way the boy’s neck could have held up under this duress without contortions.

“Ben,” I said incredulously, trying to process how anybody could be so wicked cool, “why are you wearing that lock?”

You never know what kids will remember. As for me, one of my most vivid memories is that of my role model looking straight at me and saying, “It reminds me to keep my heart locked against sin.”

Ben probably had no idea that his words would stick with me over the next decade. I heard recently that he might be working for the government now, but I honestly don’t know. What I can tell you is this: I will never forget that summer day — the day he explained his radical fashion statement and even let me hold his heavy padlock necklace.

“My God is always watching me,” Ben said. He grabbed my shoulder and gave it a squeeze. “I want to make sure I live my life right.”

Several years ago, I was gifted a toolbox full of odds and ends from my grandfather. Inside, amongst bent screwdrivers and rusty nails, I found a small padlock. If you ever want to see it, just ask me — I wear it on a chain around my neck.

Like Ben, it reminds me to keep my heart locked against sin.

It’s not just parents who have the most profound impact on a young person’s life. In a way, we are all parents to the children we interact with. We are always “on duty” when it comes to the things we say.

After all, you never know what kids will remember.

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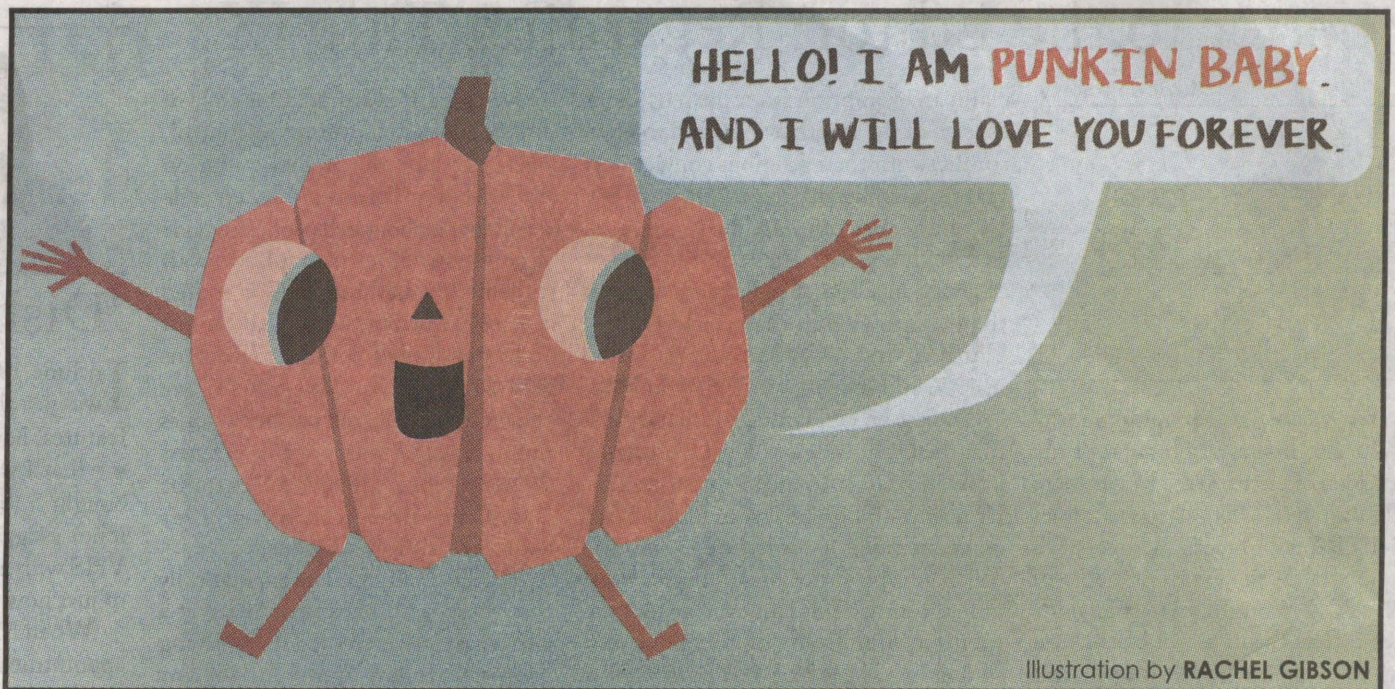


Illustration by RACHEL GIBSON

Listening to our inner condition

grayson piershale



beat
reporter

When we get to this mid-point of the semester, many students unsurprisingly feel extremely overwhelmed by their workloads. In some cases, this is a symptom of taking on too many responsibilities, which can be remedied by simply cutting out some of your routine involvements. But this isn’t always possible.

This semester is a first for me in facing that reality. I’m taking four upper-level courses, working as an RA, working for Student Publications, competing on the debate team, and making post-graduation plans. Due to the nature of these commitments and my own personal circumstances, I can’t cut out any of them. But I still felt incredibly stressed out. So, what do I do? Am I supposed to just accept the consequences of my prior decisions by working tirelessly, keeping the stress at bay as much as possible?

What’s troubling is that this is what many students try to do. If you were to ask several random Harding students how they’re doing, at least one of them will almost certainly bring up how much work they have to do (and

how little time they have for anything else) in a way that seems to suggest that there’s really no choice in the matter.

Based on a variety of influences, it’s easy to believe that if you don’t prioritize your classes, work and future goals at the expense of practically everything else, you are not spending your time wisely. But prioritizing in such a way that represses emotions and ignores one’s own internal condition inevitably leads to an incredibly self-destructive and dehumanizing lifestyle. Any psychologist will tell you this. I’m not making any radical suggestions here.

Therefore, my proposed solution that I’ve personally adopted this semester is to prioritize one’s own personal needs over the demands of classes, work or future goals. It’s worth noting that when I say “personal needs,” I don’t necessarily mean binge-watching Netflix for days without bathing or never going to class or chapel again. What I mean is that I take care of myself by listening to what’s going on internally and seeing what needs I ought to attend to.

Instead of slaving away over some particular task at my job so I can feel satisfied or get a good reference from my boss one day, I might spend quality time with friends over coffee at Midnight Oil. Instead of spending hours upon hours studying for a test in order to ensure an A in the class, I might spend my time reading books on subjects that are intellectually exciting or speak to me in ways that are profound and moving, even if it means I end up getting a C in the class. I need these things.

This doesn’t in any way imply that personal

responsibilities ought to be discarded wholesale. Seeing the decision as one of either completely blowing off responsibilities or pursuing them at all costs represents a false dichotomy, one that many of us have bought into. If lightening your workload isn’t an option, then your responsibilities still have to be fulfilled. The flexibility lies in the extent to which the responsibilities are pursued.

No matter what you think you have to do in order to attain the goals you have in mind, it isn’t worth sacrificing your own well-being. You may have to make adjustments that are uncomfortable for you, but the tradeoff is unquestionably worth it.

When the next opportunity presents itself, I plan on significantly decreasing my workload to work more with where I am in life right now. But I won’t always have that opportunity, and it’s helpful for me to know what to do when those situations arise.

So I may be getting average grades in several of my classes, performing at an average level from time to time in my jobs, and this article itself may be appropriately labelled as “very average.” But I am learning more, growing more and feeling more at peace than I ever have before in my entire life. I don’t plan on ever giving that up.

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Interested in writing a guest column?
Contact Hannah J. Moore at hmoore@harding.edu.

Just the Clax

What is the worth of a man? Is he the sum total of his resume? Is he appraised by his income and portfolio? Is he valued by his character and deeds? Is he measured by the number of friends who say he will live on in their hearts?

Or, could the answer actually be much simpler? As we learned last month, the value of a man is about 45 grand.

That was the top bid at Julien’s Auction in Los Angeles for a carved Japanese wooden box containing the ashes of Truman Capote. That’s right — the mortal remains of the man who wrote “In Cold Blood” and “Breakfast at Tiffany’s.” The associate of Harper Lee. The eccentric talk show guest. Born 1924. Died 1984.

The famed author himself was the centerpiece of a sale of his personal effects from the estate of his closest friend and confidante, Joanne Carson. You’ve of course heard of her husband, Johnny. In 2015, the ex-wife of the late talk-show icon passed away, some thirty years after bidding farewell to her friend Capote.

Mrs. Carson had saved many items belonging to the writer, including his ice skates, his shirts and a set of his prescription bottles, which alone brought in a cool \$5,000 at the sale. The going rate for child-proof orange plastic containers that did NOT belong to someone famous is, so I hear, rather modest.

Of course, the event drew media attention for its star lot and for the sheer outrageous bad taste of putting a person’s corpus delicti —

The Truman Show



michael
claxton

no matter how celebrated — on the auction block. I read somewhere that this is the first time that human ashes have ever been sold to the public. Even given Truman Capote’s penchant for the morbid and the odd, this seems beyond the pale.

Of course, fans have long collected personal souvenirs of celebrities. Last year, a lock of Abraham Lincoln’s hair fetched \$25,000 at an auction in Dallas. Around the same time, a hair clipping from Napoleon only brought \$13,000 at a New Zealand sale. Neither came close to the \$115,000 shelled out for a greased strand from Elvis Presley that sold in 2002.

By contrast, locks from Keanu Reeves are selling on eBay for \$11.95 each, plus postage.

In the high-stakes world of bidding on famous hair, I would worry about authenticity. Forgery in the collectible autograph business is rampant, so I can only imagine how many unscrupulous people might cut a tuft of their own hair, put it in a box under the bed for 200 years, and then cash it in claiming that it was shaved right off the head of Andrew Jackson.

The audacity connected with famous artifacts is totally unhinged. During the 2008 election, an eBay seller offered what

he said were the unfinished remains of a breakfast eaten by then-Sen. Barack Obama while he was on the campaign trail. The seller reassuringly included a certificate of authenticity, which could be framed and matted together with the waffle and sausage link.

I am not suggesting that the person who wrote a five-figure check for Truman Capote was duped, though Wikipedia tells a sordid tale of those ashes being divided among two friends, stolen, returned, stolen again and returned. In 2013, a Broadway producer offered to fly Mrs. Carson to a showing of “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” if she brought the box containing its author.

She declined, apparently feeling more squeamish than the anonymous actor who once willed his own skull to the Royal Shakespeare Company, with the request that it be used in a production of “Hamlet.” He had always wanted to play Yorick.

I’m not sure what this world is coming to. Which is worse? The auction house that sold Truman Capote, or the anonymous collector who bought him? Or the hack newspaper columnist who really needs to vet his material better?

MICHAEL CLAXTON is a guest writer for the *Bison*. He can be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu.

At the *Bison*, it is our goal to serve the Harding University student body with integrity, truth and open ears. However, we believe that meeting that goal is a two-way street between our staff and the public it serves. We pledge to keep our eyes and ears open to what our community has to say and hope that, in return, that community will be an interactive audience, sharing its stories with us. We also pledge to do the basics: Report accurate and relevant information, check our facts, and share them in a professional, timely manner. If you have any story ideas, questions, comments or concerns for the *Bison* staff, please email Joshua Johnson, the editor-in-chief, at jjohnson4@harding.edu. “The *Bison* (USPS 577-660) is published weekly (except vacations, exams and summer sessions), 20 issues per year, by Harding University. Periodicals postage paid at Searcy, Arkansas 72143. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Bison*, Harding University 11192, SEARCY, AR 72149-0001.” BYLINE POLICY: The *Bison* provides an opportunity for class writers to contribute work under the byline “guest writers.” Due to this arrangement, staff writers may rewrite a portion of the guest writers’ stories as they deem necessary, while still identifying the work as the guest writers’ own.

caleb rowan



Hurler
on the
Ditch

Cubs' year

My distaste for the Chicago Cubs originated sometime around the release of *NSYNC's "Bye Bye Bye." As the 20th century turned, my dad chose not to prepare me for the end of the world and instead began grooming me into the dedicated St. Louis Cardinals fan I am today. I quickly learned three important lessons: McGwire was good and Sosa was evil, regardless of their off-the-field friendship; a TV tuned in to WGN was unacceptable, unless of course the Cubs were playing the Cardinals; and being seen in Cubs gear was only permissible at the Junior Deputy Baseball Complex, where I played on the "Little Rock Cubs" for three years.

When they beat out the Cardinals to win the National League's central division in 2003, my hatred for the Cubs had fully culminated. For a franchise that hadn't won a World Series since 1908, Cubs fans were annoyingly upbeat that October as they asserted their signature claim, "This is our year."

And then it happened. Cubs fan Steve Bartman reached out and caught a playable foul ball that would've clinched the National League Pennant for Chicago. Instead, the Cubs lost the game and the series to the eventual World Series champions, the Florida Marlins. As he snatched that foul ball from its plummet toward the glove of left fielder Moises Alou, he also snatched the World Series hopes of the Cubs faithful. It confirmed the hunch that the Cubs were cursed. It left Bartman receiving death threats. It was a story you couldn't possibly make up. And I loved it. I may have even hummed to myself those *NSYNC lyrics I had been exposed to three years earlier as I watched the Cubs exit the playoffs.

In the following years, my Cardinals fandom had me feeling invincible. I celebrated World Series wins in 2006 and 2011, watched Albert Pujols crush home run after home run and never questioned manager Tony La Russa's batting-the-pitcher-in-the-8-hole quirk. Meanwhile, Chicago continued to struggle as the acronym "Completely Useless By September" was popularized to describe their postseason woes. I began to rely heavily on baseball as my sport of good fortune (let's not forget that I am, indeed, a Hogs fan).

This brings me to 2016. In a twisted turn of events this season, my Cardinals, who hadn't missed the playoffs in six years, were beaten out in the NL Central by the upstart, 103-win Cubs. This coming after the Cardinals were beaten out by the Cubs in the playoffs a year ago. The playoffs are in full swing now and Chicago looks like the overwhelming favorite to finally win another World Series. I've been humbled by my three Cubs-supporting roommates and their unrelenting seizure of the opportunity to talk smack. It seems I'm the one now saying, "Bye Bye Bye," to my reign of good baseball fortune. And unfortunately, it seems it may finally be the Cubs' year.

CALEB ROWAN is the head sports editor for the *Bison*. He may be contacted at crowan@harding.edu.



CROSS COUNTRY M	10/8	GOLF W	10/11
OZARKS INVITATIONAL	1 ST	GAC PREVIEW	6 TH
CROSS COUNTRY W	10/8	VOLLEYBALL	10/11
OZARKS INVITATIONAL	1 ST	HARDING UNIVERSITY	01
FOOTBALL	10/8	U OF A FORT SMITH	03
HARDING UNIVERSITY	35	SOCCER M	10/12
HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY	03	HARDING UNIVERSITY	01
GOLF M	10/11	SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY	00
MIDWEST REGIONAL AT FOX RUN	5 TH	SOCCER W	10/12
		HARDING UNIVERSITY	02
		SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY	03

Academy Homecoming game canceled

TAYLOR HODGES
asst. sports editor

For the second year in a row, the Harding Academy Wildcats football team will not play a game on Homecoming. The Rose Bud Ramblers, the Wildcats' scheduled opponent, had to forfeit their season due to injuries and players leaving the team for the second consecutive year.

This year, when it was official that Rose Bud had forfeited its season, the superintendent, coaches and athletic director James Simmons searched all over Arkansas and other states to find a team with the week off so that a Homecoming game would be possible.

"We looked on the websites of the athletic associations in Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Mississippi," Simmons said. "We couldn't find anybody that had an open date."

Simmons also added that they called the Arkansas Athletics Association (AAA) to see if there were any other teams that were on the verge of or already had canceled their season, but none were found.

As the administration and coaches were searching for a team to play, the AAA informed

them that they were not going to be able to replace Rose Bud with a different team.

"We found out, in fact, that there was a rule that said we couldn't (find a replacement) anyway," Simmons said. "We were going to be awarded a win because Rose Bud forfeited the game. So without physically playing a game, we will have won a game."

The AAA went on to have a board meeting about this situation. They decided that because this is the second year in a row where the same team forfeited Harding Academy's Homecoming game, they would allow the Academy to play a game if they found an opponent.

The Academy continued to search for someone to play but were unable to find a team with an open date. On the morning of Oct. 5, the administration announced to the school that the game had officially been canceled.

The administration decided that Homecoming activities will still take place on Oct. 21. The student association and the high school principal are working together to form an itinerary for that night with different activities in place of the game.

First year head coach Neil Evans said that

from a football standpoint they are going to use this week off to their advantage.

"We have had four really difficult, physical games," Evans said. "We're a little bit nicked up and a little bit banged up. So, what I'm hoping is that we can use this to our advantage and let it give us a chance to heal up."

Evans added that since this happened last year, he knows he has a mature, experienced team that will be able to handle this well.

"I think the biggest thing is that I have to make sure I am in tune with the players and have good communication with them," Evans said. "I can't do what's best for me. I have to do what's best for them as far as addressing and figuring out if this is a big deal to these players."

Every year for Homecoming, alumni and family members make plans to come back to their alma mater to celebrate and to watch a football game. It is usually a highly attended game that students and players look forward to every year.

Although the Harding Academy Wildcats will not have a Homecoming game, they will still have the crowning of the queen and activities in place of the football game on Friday, Oct. 21.

Banger, Bisons secure 5th place finish

CALEB ROWAN
sports editor
LIBBIE TURNER
asst. pr/marketing

The men's golf team finished fifth out of 26 teams at the Midwest Regional at Fox Run on Oct. 10-11, led by junior Mason Banger's 2-over 146. Senior Alex Williamson, who shot 8-over, failed to be the Bisons' top finisher for the first time this season, but praised the play of his teammate.

"Mason finally put a couple of rounds together so it was good to see him play well," Williamson said. "He did it all last year when I redshirted and definitely took on the role as a leader and a captain. I never expect him to play bad, he's got potential through the roof."

Banger's first round 72 was his fifth round of par or better in his career. Junior Cameron Murry, the Bisons' third-place finisher, shot a season best 10-over 154.

According to Williamson, the team was proud of its performance but felt it could've played better at the end of the second day.

"We didn't feel like we played that great and still ended up fifth out of 26, which is really good," Williamson said. "We had it going early (on day two) and we were all leading our groups, but we kind of fell apart in the end."

The Bisons finished two shots behind third-place finisher Grand Valley State University, which is ranked 16th nationally. Williamson said being within reach of such quality opponents gives the team confidence in the improvement they've made.



Courtesy of DUSTIN HOWELL

Senior Alex Williamson hits a chip shot during the University of Nebraska at Kearney Fall Invitational on Sept. 13. Williamson has shot par or better seven times this season.

"We've put in the work and the overall quality of the team is just better," Williamson said. "I don't think we've been satisfied this year with any of our finishes score-wise but our scoring average this year is five strokes better than any average in Harding history, so we can hopefully keep getting better."

The Bisons have not taken the same five golfers to any tournament this year, which Williamson said is a testament to the team's consistency from top to bottom.

"One of our goals each year is to keep our scoring average below 300," Williamson said. "We're at 297 right

now and to do that you have to have four scores — one score doesn't do it for you. Everybody is contributing, so that speaks to how consistent we are across the board."

The women's team played at the Great American Conference (GAC) Preview, also on Oct. 10-11, finishing sixth out of eight teams. The Lady Bisons' top two performers, freshmen Zhane Mayo and Bryle Alcorn, finished fifth and 25th respectively.

Despite windy conditions, Harding was able to shoot its best round since 2013. Alcorn said that the tournament helped the team measure its growth against the GAC's best teams.

"It was good to see where we stood in our conference because those are the teams we'll be playing in April," Alcorn said. "We've been improving every single tournament, working hard in the gym and really coming together as a team, and we definitely have the ambition to try and be the best."

The Lady Bisons will wrap up their fall season at the Henderson State University Fall Invite in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on Oct. 24. The Bisons will play their final tournament of the fall on Oct. 17 at the TVA Credit Union Classic at the University of North Alabama.

Lady Bisons drop first home game since 2014

AUDRA SHUMAKER
student writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, the women's soccer team lost 1-0 to Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) at the Stephens Soccer Complex. This was the women's soccer team's first loss at home since 2014.

According to head coach Greg Harris, the team created chances and never stopped taking opportunities to score. With 21 shots taken in the game, the Lady Bisons nearly doubled OBU's 11 attempted goals. Sophomore midfielder Bethany Sutherland took nine shots, with two on the goal for the Lady Bisons. Goalkeeper Jessica Woessner played all 90 minutes and defended six of the seven shots taken on Lady Bisons, only allowing OBU to score one time. Ouachita scored 15 minutes into the game. After OBU's goal the Lady Bison's fired back with five attempted shots, all blocked by OBU. According to junior midfielder Emma Chilton, the team went into the game against OBU with confidence and played with the expectations of victory.

"We picked it up in the second half more than the first, the team had a change of mindset and that really turned things around for us," Chilton said.

According to Chilton, the team was coming off of an emotional high after they defeated Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) which was expected to be the Lady Bison's hardest game. According to Chilton, the team was not playing to their full potential or at their highest intensity.

This being the first loss of the season, the women talked about leadership on the field. According to senior midfielder Anna-Grace Kirkman, a loss is never easy, especially after a long winning streak.

"One thing our team doesn't lack is encouragement. It's easy to be torn down



EVAN SWEARINGEN | The Bison

Freshman midfielder Michelle Morgan winds up for a shot against OBU on Tuesday, Oct. 4. The Lady Bisons would go on to lose the game 1-0, their first home loss since 2014.

after a bad play, but without fail, we have teammates who constantly lift each other up," Kirkman said

The team has a motto that they try to live and play by "stay humble, hustle hard."

According to Kirkman the team is excited and determined as they move forward with the season.

"We have so much potential and talent," Kirkman said. "We hit one small bump in

the road but we are already coming back at full speed to prove ourselves on Saturday."

The Lady Bisons next game is tonight at 5 p.m. at the Stephens Soccer Complex against Oklahoma Baptist University.

hunter beck

guest
writer



After this month's pair of friendlies, the U.S. men's soccer team is gearing up for the final round of World Cup qualifiers. In preparation, Jurgen Klinsmann has made some curious decisions. His exhaustive search for answers to the holes in his squad offers an idea of the players he trusts and those he doesn't.

Up top, Klinsmann trusts Jozy Altidore. When he's in form, Jozy is a constant threat. His six goals in seven international games show he can be a difference maker. Bobby Wood looks set to start alongside him, scoring three international goals this year. Promising youngster Jordan Morris and former starlets Juan Agudelo and Terrence Boyd received call-ups recently but played sparingly. Clint Dempsey will likely make an impact as a sub after re-

U.S. men's soccer gears up for World Cup qualifiers

covering from a heart condition.

Klinsmann is confident in Christian Pulisic on the wing. The 18-year-old impressed for the U.S. this summer, starting in two of seven matches and scoring three goals. At Borussia Dortmund, he became the youngest non-German to score in the Bundesliga. After this week, Klinsmann will likely move forward with 21-year-old Julian Green starting on the opposite wing. After scoring in the World Cup at 19, Green has impressed in his limited chances with Bayern Munich, earning last week's call-ups and scoring in both of them. Alejandro Bedoya and Gyasi Zardes have received plenty of minutes at winger for the U.S., but Green and Pulisic will likely develop beyond Bedoya, and Zardes' poor first touch and hustle will ultimately keep him out of the first team.

Bedoya could find time in the middle of the field, however. While captain Michael Bradley will continue in his central role, Klinsmann

has yet to settle on who should play alongside him. Sasha Kljestan, 31, has played well beside Bradley recently, looking confident behind the forwards, staying on the ball and playing it forward effectively. Despite seeing no international minutes since June, Darlington Nagbe will likely be featured with his ability to play anywhere in the midfield with creativity and pace. Perry Kitchen, Danny Williams, and 20-year-old Lynden Gooch have also earned time in the middle recently. Ultimately, Klinsmann's selection for leftback may be the best indicator of his potential solution for the midfield.

Kellyn Acosta, 21, has received plenty of time at leftback since his international debut in January. He's looked solid, moving well on offense and defense and finding smart passes. If his form continues, Klinsmann may push Fabian Johnson forward into the midfield. Typically a fullback for the U.S., he plays as a midfielder for Borussia Monchengladbach, where he is a key player. Johnson could be

the missing piece to Klinsmann's midfield puzzle with his defensive prowess and ability to distribute or to put the ball on frame from distance.

Speaking of fullbacks, Klinsmann doesn't trust Deandre Yedlin defensively. In several matches, including Tuesday's, he's played on the wing, where his poor touch and decision making in the box have kept him from impressing. However, no one else has stepped up at rightback, as typical centerbacks Michael Orozco and Tim Ream and repurposed midfielder Brek Shea have failed to impress. Klinsmann is likely hopeful that Timmy Chandler can regain his form after injury kept him out of the Copa America this summer. John Brooks and Geoff Cameron have the full go-ahead at centerback. Young veterans Omar Gonzales and Matt Besler have looked decent in recent games while Steve Birnbaum and Matt Miazga figure to be solid defenders in the future, but Brooks and Cameron

should be the starting pair.

At goalkeeper, Klinsmann doesn't trust veterans Tim Howard or Brad Guzan after mediocre performances for club and country. Several hopeful goalkeepers have seen action recently, but only the 21-year-old Ethan Horvath has really impressed. Horvath played all ninety minutes of his international debut, earning his clean sheet with several good saves in last week's 2-0 defeat of Cuba. While Howard or Guzan might regain their form, Horvath could snag the starting role.

Several strikers, wingers and centerbacks have set themselves apart for the U.S. over the last year. It's Klinsmann's selections in the midfield, at fullback and at goalkeeper that will prove key as the U.S. move forward toward the World Cup.

HUNTER BECK is a guest writer for the Bison. He may be contacted at hbeck@harding.edu. Twitter: @deodungha

LOCKER TALK

Our Athletes' Views
on Pop Culture

questions

What is the most embarrassing thing that happened to you in high school?

What is your biggest pet peeve?

What is one thing you could not live with out?

Who is your sports hero?

Andy Haney
Basketball



One time I lost my shorts in a basketball game.

When people ask questions they already know the answer to.

Popsicles.

My older sister Tabitha. I always wanted to do what she wanted to do.

Emma Chilton
Soccer



I fell walking up the stairs in front of a ton of people and rolled all the way back down, taking three or four people with me.

When people abbreviate words in a normal conversation as if they were texting.

Chicken of all forms: wings, strips, breasts grilled and fried.

Mia Hamm. She was the first woman soccer player I had ever heard about. She is a woman soccer legend.

Will Francis
Basketball



Ripped three pairs of jeans my junior year.

People who complain.

My family.

Park Parish.

Kalli Ashford
Cheerleader



We were throwing little plastic footballs to the crowd at a game, and I threw one really hard and nailed someone in the face.

People who smack.

Coffee 100 percent.

Well it was Kevin Durant, but we're not on good terms right now.

Jon Aaron Howell
Football



Having to dress up as a cheerleader for a pep rally.

Stains.

Can't live without my truck Lucy.

Park Parish.



Using hippotherapy to ‘stirrup’ smiles in Searcy

SAVANNA DISTEFANO
features editor
KATIE MCDONNEL
student writer

“You can see his face light up when it’s time to get on a horse — and he’s (succeeding). Anytime he can get a glimpse of us, or anyone else, at the end of the barn, watching as he passes the door each time, he wants to get their attention, and he wants to make sure everyone can see him on the horse,” said Kirsten Odom, parent of a child with special needs and president of Stirrups and Smiles.

In 2010, Odom began bringing her now 12-year-old child to Stirrups and Smiles, an equine assisted therapy program located in the outskirts of Searcy. The program halted after approximately four years of operation due to staffing changes, but was able to reopen this fall.

Stirrups and Smiles works in conjunction with Pediatric Therapy Associates to treat children with disabilities. Hippotherapy certified therapists conduct therapy sessions with the clients.

“I’ve been (at the stables) before where kids have spoken their first words,” Odom said. “You have kids who are nonverbal, but they’re on the back of a horse and they’re singing. Experiences like that just prove right there that it’s a big deal. This isn’t a child having a horse ride around a barn, this is important — this is big.”

Clients sign up for eight-week sessions, in which they attend a riding session twice a week and work towards their goals in physical and occupational therapy. Jennifer Fisher, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders (CSD) and executive board member of Stirrups and Smiles, said equine therapy creates an avenue to efficiently relate to clients.

“Children who have autism, difficulty with social language, become more relative and communicate

well in an exciting environment of that with a horse, Fisher said. “They build a relationship with the animal, and it elicits a lot of vocabulary, language and speech.”

Senior CSD major Allison Nolan volunteers regularly for the program and said her favorite part is watching the children improve.

“Some of these little ones are very timid outside of their therapy sessions, and it is so neat to see how comfortable they become on the horses,” Nolan said. “I love getting to know them more and seeing how excited they get when they see me or the horses. They definitely ‘stirrup’ smiles in all of us volunteers.”

Stirrups and Smiles heavily relies on volunteers, most of whom are Harding students from the CSD program. It takes two to three volunteers for each therapy session. Fisher said she specifically encourages CSD students to become involved in Stirrups and Smiles to gain work experience.

“I want my students to see that the field they are going into to be delivered in this type of setting, in the hippotherapy,” Fisher said. “This gives the students opportunity to see interprofessional practice being done, and they actually get to be a part of that as a volunteer.”

According to Odom, her son enjoys spending time with volunteers who “have a heart of gold.” She said the program has helped him physically, mental and developmentally.

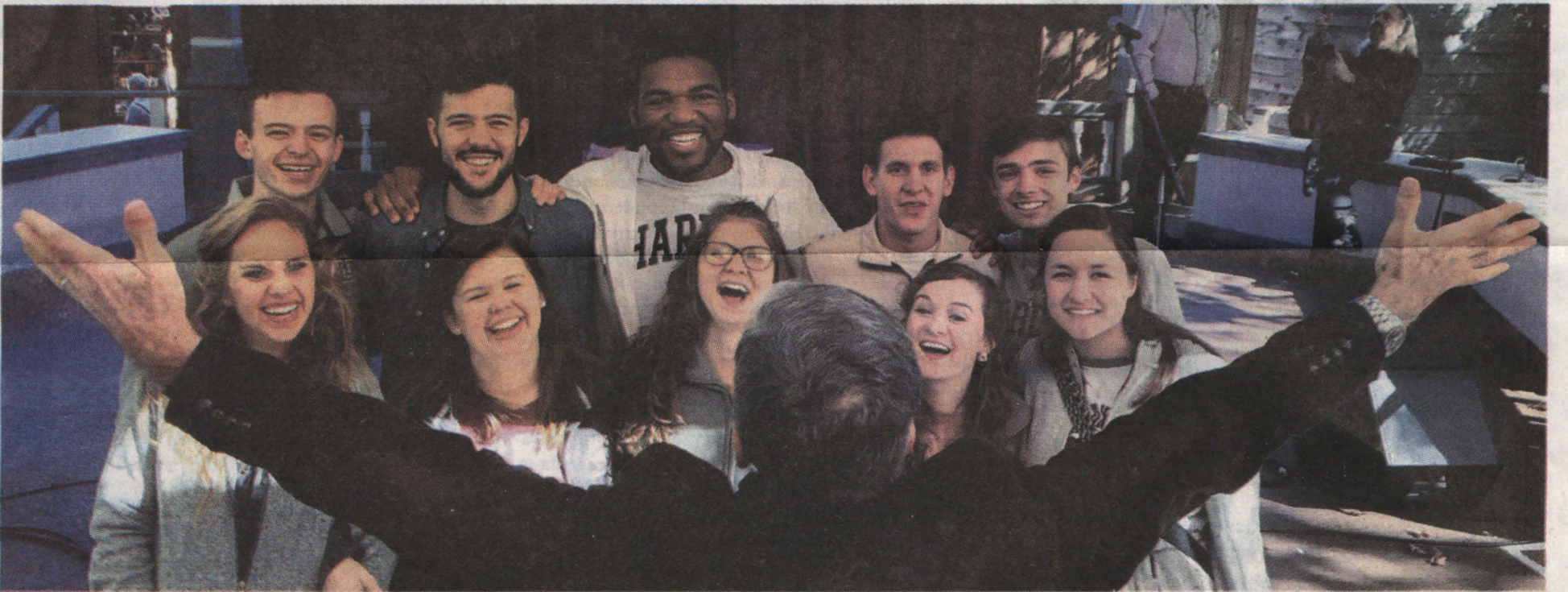
“To some of these kids, this may be the biggest thing because they’ve never been able to have that experience before, and better yet, they are getting help with their disability all at the same time,” Odom said. “Some of us don’t realize how much help (the clients) are really getting, but the parents do — the parents know how much it means.”

For more information contact Allison Nolan at anolan@harding.edu or Jennifer Fisher at jfisher1@harding.edu.



Courtesy of Jennifer Fisher

Stirrups and Smiles client Annakaye Jones rides a horse for a hippotherapy session. Stirrups and Smiles is a volunteer-run nonprofit dedicated to helping children with special needs through equine-assisted therapy.



Ministering through music and relationships

Courtesy of Braden Bowman

THELMA MARTINEZ
student writer
SAVANNA DISTEFANO
features editor

Junior Katherine Stinnett said she dreamed of becoming part of Harding’s a cappella ensemble, Good News Singers, since she was a child, but never anticipated she would make the audition. When she came to Harding, Stinnett said she was encouraged to audition, and becoming a member of the ensemble influenced her beyond her expectations.

“I love that each week there are set times where we get together to sing and work on songs, and essentially work on the ministry together,” Stinnett said. “I have been refreshed at the encouraging thoughts and

reminders form our director, Chuck Hicks, and the rest of the group about who Jesus is — their actions and words speak to that.”

GNS was founded by the Bible department back in 1982. According to Chuck Hicks, GNS director and professor of music, the ensemble is a ministry for both audiences and the members within the group.

“We are dedicated to touching the hearts of our audiences with beautiful messages of hope and joy to be found in Christ Jesus (through our songs),” Hicks said. “(GNS) share together the lives of many precious souls who share their stories freely, and in the process we grow closer to them, to each other and to God.”

GNS practices about two times per week and performs 10 times per semester. Junior GNS member Ross Smith said these times

are more personal than scheduled meetings.

“(GNS) is getting together two times a week with my brothers and sisters to worship, and to praise a God we all believe in and love,” Smith said. “It is going on trips to share the love we have for God with voices, learning something new every day about just how hard it is, but at the same time, just how great it is to be a follower of Christ.”

According to Hicks, the whole group arranges songs in ways they think will best express its message of the Gospel. Whether the harmonies are elaborated or simple, the group strives to make the song their own. Smith said this helps him to understand God more.

“Throughout the year, as we are learning new songs, but learning the meaning

behind those words, there comes a point as a group where I believe we begin to understand how God is working through us as a group rather than as individuals,” Smith said.

Hicks said the GNS is an outlet for his love of harmony and “music with purpose,” and he said the members become a family whose relationship never ends.

“(The students) challenge me to be always aware of who I am and whose I am,” Hicks said. “In addition to focusing musically, they bring me joy in many ways as we work together to represent our God, our families and out school with beauty, sensitivity, integrity and passion.”

Good News Singers will perform Homecoming on the Benson steps on Oct. 28 at 4 p.m.

Peebles Farm opens for fall functions and festivities

ALEX PETTY
student writer

Every year, Peebles Farm in Augusta, Arkansas opens its gates for visitors during the fall season. The farm has become a go-to for seasonal activities such as pumpkin picking, hay rides and haunted corn mazes.

The Peebles family decided to open their farm to the public in 2004 after crop prices began to fall. After much research and planning, the Peebles created their first corn maze, which has become their staple attraction.

Today the farm boasts 20,000 visitors a year who come to see their growing attractions. In addition to the original corn maze, the family has added 60 acres of pumpkins to choose from, as well as hay rides, horse and wagon rides, a playground, a petting zoo, a sunflower field and a general store where visitors can buy locally made goods.

“Preparing the farm for fall activities starts in June when we plant the pumpkins,” Katie Peebles said. “It’s almost a seven-day-a-week job, as the crops are all hand

planted, hand chopped and harvested by hand.”

The Peebles’ daughter, Mary Peebles, who grew up helping set up the farm for visitors, said that one of the most special aspects of their farm is the community building it has brought on.

“I love being able to see the joy the farm brings, not only to the visitors and my family, but to the town of Augusta as well,” Mary Peebles said.

While Peebles Farm is a local favorite, it has also become a frequent fall destination for college students. Attractions such as the sunflower field, petting zoo and the haunted corn maze draw in hundreds of college students a year.

The farm welcomes social clubs for functions throughout the fall. Junior Shannon McCurdy, activities director of women’s social club Ko Jo Kai, said having a place like Peebles Farm nearby is extremely beneficial to Harding students, particularly social clubs.

“It’s great to have a place we can go to for functions, or even just go with some friends on a weekend,” McCurdy said. “We have such a quintessential fall activity

so close to us.”

Mary Peebles said that the farm has been a huge blessing to her and her family.

“I honestly can’t picture my life without it,” Mary Peebles said. “The farm has opened up so many opportunities, established relationships and has brought my family together in a closeness I never thought was possible.”

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RAD DUDES WITH BAD 'TUDES

Taking a closer look at the skateboarder/pedestrian relationship

GARRETT HOWARD
lifestyle editor

Dealing with hordes of inconsiderately slow walkers on the sidewalk is a difficult ordeal. Dealing with hordes of inconsiderately slow walkers and inconsiderately fast skateboarders is hardcoring it up a notch or 12.

Life is hard enough without having to worry about getting run over on the way to class. Praise be to boarders who exclaim "On your left" Captain America style before they fly past you at breakneck speeds.

However, people who use these alternative modes of transportation are not to be feared. According to sophomore longboarder Hunter Jackson, avoiding a sidewalk collision requires attention from both walkers and wheelers, especially in a technologically-dominated society.

"It's really not safe to use your phone while walking or on a board," Jackson said. "If you're on your phone, then you're not focused on your balance or where you're going, and things just come up so fast ... It is much easier to crash on a skateboard than in a car."

Many boarders say that paying attention to one's surroundings is key in a highly populated area, including sophomore Addison Picker, who frequently uses his penny board for quick travel. Both he and Jackson agree that if the area appears too crowded, it is best to find a different route or switch from wheeling to walking.

"Depending on where you need to go, if you can find another route, just go around and don't bother anyone," Picker said. "And don't weave in and out between people. That's just obnoxious."

Jackson says he frequently analyzes his surroundings, asking himself, "Can I make it around that?" or, "Am I going to pass him before I hit him?" to ensure safety is kept paramount. However, even in barely populated areas, those who are not skateboarding need to consider their own conduct during travel.

"Even when there's not a lot of people about, there are times when I feel uncomfortable riding," Jackson said. "Like when a group of girls walk in a horizontal line and take up the entire sidewalk."

Senior skateboarder Zach Ferguson echoed Jackson's statements, saying that isolated clusters of people in relatively

sparse locations can become nuisances.

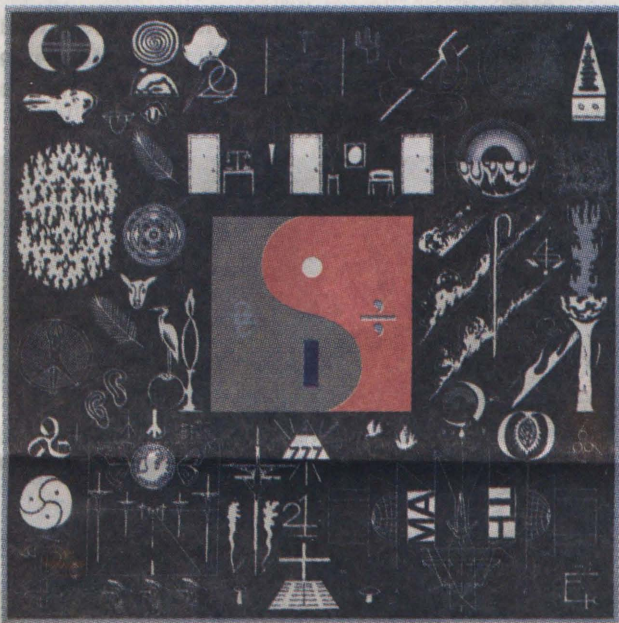
"I get pretty annoyed when one person takes up the whole sidewalk that I'm on and won't get over on one side to let me go by," Ferguson said. "It's also kind of annoying when people cower back in fear as I ride by. They are probably afraid because of the inexperienced boarders on campus who don't know what they're doing."

Many other boarders agree with Ferguson's statement, including Picker and Jackson, who agree that learning to feel comfortable when riding a board is vital to safety and enjoyment.

"Practice somewhere where you aren't in anyone's way, because if you don't, you're giving people who ride a bad name," Picker said.

Finding a mentor can also improve the way new boarders handle themselves in public areas, according to Jackson.

"If you're new, take your board to someone who knows boards really well, get them to look over it and maybe even modify it a little," Jackson said. "And get someone who knows how to ride effectively to give you tips. People try out all of these crazy ideas they think makes them look cool when it's really just dangerous and embarrassing."



Bon Iver's maturing sound

JACOB ARDREY
student writer

Bon Iver's release of "22, A Million" through Jagjaguwar Records on Sept. 30 is his first album in five years and is planned to reach the No. 1 position on the Billboard 200, according to Billboard.

Upon release, fans were puzzled at the new sound implemented by vocalist Justin Vernon. After releasing the single "33 'GOD'" months before the album dropped, listeners had to acclimate themselves to the influence of hip-hop and jazz on the new tracks. As a first-time listener of Bon Iver, I was interested in what new sensation this album would bring.

The album begins with a subtle mechanized voice with the track "22 (OVER SOON)." This features the familiar harmonies as a culmination of his self-titled "Bon Iver" and "For Emma, Forever Ago." It combines indie-folk syncopations with an 80s electronic vibe. As the album progresses, the next memorable track is titled "10 dEATHbREAsT." The intro presents a strong drum and bass pound that feels like you are riding in the "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" car while accompanied by two conga players. "715-CREEKS" is a track that requires no instrumentation and provides the listener with Vernon singing through a voice synthesizer that creates an eerie Daft Punk effect. Long-time fans may be familiar with this arrangement in reference to their 2009 "Blood Bank" EP that featured the similar song "Woods."

The latter half of the album is comparable to the early style of Bon Iver that includes soft piano and guitar while adding a groovy saxophone as a foundational background.

Sophomore Hannah Reed gave her own review of the album, saying she likes the different sound.

"People don't like change, but I think change is good for music," Reed said. "It allows us to grow and experience new things."

Music websites such as Pitchfork and Consequence of Sound shared their reviews of "22, A Million." Pitchfork writer Amanda Petrusich said Vernon resists to produce the standard verse-chorus-verse form of typical songwriting and conceptualizes the narrative of each song differently.

"This particular amalgamation is so twitchy and idiosyncratic it feels truly singular," Petrusich said. "Its searching is bottomless."

Consequence of Sound writer Philip Cosores said Vernon leaves behind most of the habitual folk style for an electronic one.

"From the silly, cryptic tracklisting to the actual direction of the music — which ditches much of the acoustic guitar strums for glitchy, vocoded wailings — the Bon Iver of 2016 is hardly recognizable to those still swooning when they hear 'Skinny Love' at their local Starbucks," Cosores said in a Sept. 29 review for Consequence of Sound.

The wizarding world of Harry Potter returns

CLAIRE PATTON
head web editor

Harry Potter has been a household name ever since the J.K. Rowling wrote and published "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in 1997. Rowling went on to release six other books in the series, which in turn were made into eight movies that many have grown up watching. While the last film was released in 2011, 2016 proved to be the end of the Harry Potter dry spell with the release of the West End show "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" and the publication of its script in addition to a new movie, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them."

However, many fans of the Harry Potter series were disappointed with The Cursed Child book, including freshman Dylan Smith, who read the entirety of the book in four hours after he purchased it.

"The characters just weren't themselves," Smith said. "They weren't the characters that I had read the books over and over again for, they weren't the characters who I loved watching grow, they weren't the characters that I compared myself to growing up." Smith also added that he did not

think the story was well thought out and found many plot holes throughout the script, summing it all up as "bad fanfiction."

"I felt very betrayed," Smith said. "I felt like the whole play was just a way for [Rowling] to just rake in more cash and take advantage of her fans."

Senior Julie White also was disappointed after reading the screenplay of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" and found it "cheesy and the characters lacking depth," but while attending the study abroad program in England, White still bought a ticket and saw part two of the original play.

"Seeing the actual show on stage really transformed my opinion of the eighth story as a whole," White said. "In places where the dialogue I read seemed cringe-worthy, the phenomenal actors in the show delivered their lines in such a compelling way that I connected with their characters so much more."

White added that the effects of the show played a major part in the performance where the book was lacking. The actors' wands projected flames and patronuses, the stage's use of lighting and sound effects gave the audience the feel of traveling through

time and the transitions between scenes were seamless.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" was an unforgettable experience," White said. "The show as a whole was just a delightful experience for someone who loves the Harry Potter story and world."

While the new film "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" has a new set of characters and takes place in America in 1926, several fans are looking forward to its release on Nov. 18, including senior Allie Cook.

"I really like the casting," Cook said. "I like the diversity of the cast, including race and gender. There's a broader spectrum of people in the movie."

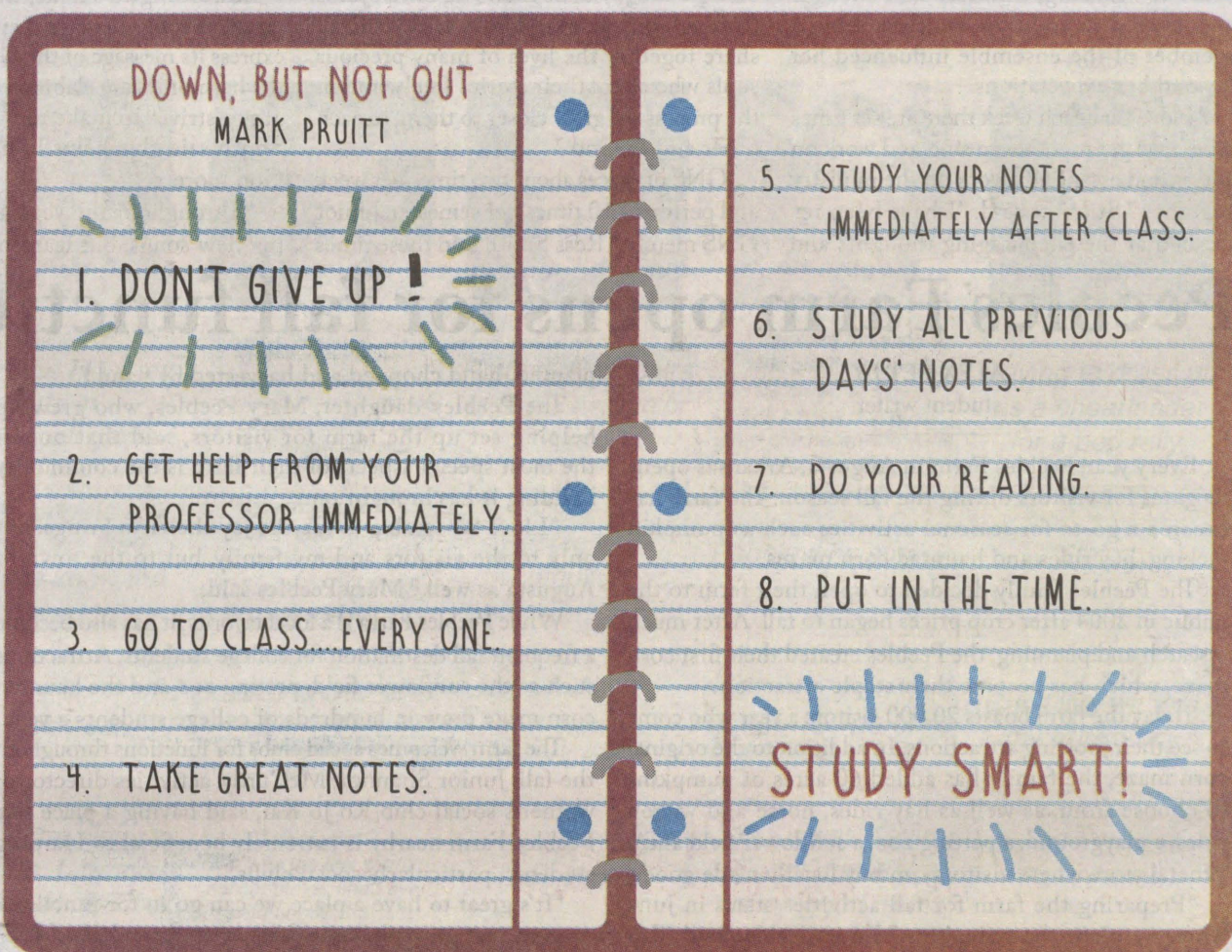
Cook went on to say that she will be holding the movie to the same expectations as the other films, despite the unrelated storylines.

"I'm excited that it's not based on any of the books so that I don't have to compare it," Cook said. "I can look at it as a movie, I don't have to worry about things being left out."

IMAX movie theaters across the country, including B & B theater in Little Rock, will show all eight Harry Potter films from Oct. 13 through Oct. 20. Tickets are a flat rate of \$10.

Pruitt's points to save your grade

To take full advantage of Mark Pruitt's tricks and tips, check out the full article online on The Link



Graphic by RACHEL GIBSON